

Connect

If our church were a dish, what kind of dish would it be, and why? What keeps the harmony of our church together?

Verses - Colossians 4:2ff NKJV

Read aloud:

2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; 3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. 5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. 7 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. 8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, 9with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here. 10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), 11 and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me. 12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. 14 Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. 15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house. 16 Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea. 17 And say to Archippus, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.” 18 This salutation by my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. Paul says to keep praying and be thankful (v.2). Why is being thankful important when we pray? Explain also *earnest* and *vigilant* prayer.

2. Notice Paul asks the Colossians also for prayer, despite not even having met them (v.3). Why is this not strange, though they are strangers to him?

3. What does Paul mean by *redeeming the time* (v.5)? What time is he referring to? How can we redeem the time?

4. What does Paul also mean when he says to *let our speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt* (v.6)? How do we do this? What does it have to do with the condition of our heart?

5. Which ministries are held by the rest of the Asia-Minor team in vv.7ff? Why is this important?

Share

1. Pastor Jesse's message emphasized the "rep" (reputation), we should have as followers of Christ. In what ways can you improve your "rep"? How do we do this relying on the power of God and not ourselves?

Discuss this from this week's message:
In the message, Pastor Jesse also talked about the benefit we receive in Jesus Christ, by the will of the Father, being all-powerful, reigning from the Throne above, right now. What good is this for us today? What does it have to do with prayer?

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.

Magnify

Based on today's lesson, share and/or in prayer and reflection:

- ❖ What might you be able to confess?
- ❖ What can you praise God about who He is?
- ❖ What can you thank Him for?
- ❖ How can you serve Him better?